

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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P R 020700Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0876
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1576

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TU
SUBJ: GENERAL EVREN TO BE NEW CHIEF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF(TGS)

REF: A) 77 ANKARA 6973(DTG 210948Z SEP77), B) ANKARA 0995

1. MOST TURKISH DAILIES MARCH 1 QUOTE THE GOT'S OFFICIAL
GAZETTE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 28(NOT YET DISTRIBUTED) AS NAMING GROUND
FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL KENAN EVREN AS THE NEW CHIEF OF THE
TURKISH GENERAL STAFF(TGS). THE ANNOUNCEMENT STATES THAT EVREN
WILL REPLACE CHIEF TGS GENERAL SEMIH SANCAR EFFECTIVE MARCH 7.
REPORTEDLY THE GAZETTE MAKES NO MENTION OF WHO WILL REPLACE
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EVREN OR OTHER COMMAND CHANGES THAT WILL BE NECESSARY. THE
EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT NATO COMMANDERS WILL ATTEND A MARCH 6
CHANGE-OF-COMMAND CEREMONY.

2. COMMENT: EVREN'S ELEVATION FOLLOWS WHAT WAS THE TRADI-
TIONAL PATTERN OF PROMOTING THE GROUND FORCES COMMANDER (GFC)
TO CHIEF TGS(REF A). WE SPECULATE THAT A REASON THE GFC

WAS NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY NAMED ALONG WITH THE NEW CHIEF
TGS WOULD BE BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM OF GENERAL ERSUN. IN JUNE 1977
GENERAL SANCAR AND THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT INEPTLY HANDLED THE
FORCED "RETIREMENT" OF THEN GFC GENERAL NAMIK ERSUN. ERSUN
APPEALED THIS ACTION TO THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COURT
WHICH, IN TURN, REULED ON FEBRUARY 10 THAT ERSUN BE
REINSTATED. IT IS STILL UNCLEAR, IF ERSUN'S REINSTATEMENT
WILL ACUTALLY MEAN HIS RECALL TO ACTIVE DUTY OR POSSIBLY
EVEN HIS REAPPOINTMENT AS GFC. SPECULATION WITHIN THE
MILITARY, HOWEVER, IS THAT ERSUN WILL ACCEPT APPOINTMENT TO
THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND SERVE OUT THE TIME REMAINIG
UNTIL HIS NORMAL RETIREMENT DATE. ANOTHER COMPLICATING
ISSUE COULD BE THE "COUNTER-GUERRILLA" CONTROVERSY(REF B) WHICH
HAS STRAINED MILITARY-CIVILIAN RELATIONS RECENTLY.
SPIERS

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